

DEC 28 1923

SURVIVAL OF SUPERSTITION.

Negro folk lore and negro superstition yet remain in the South, but diminished in proportion as the old mammies have died away. The Observer hopes the day may never come when memories of the old plantation traditions have been completely faded out, when negro melodies are forgotten and the folk lore tales cannot be recalled, for then would the South have lost its most cherished traditions. The superstitions of the South were of the harmless sort, as for instance, the jay bird carrying the pepper plant to hell on a Friday to have it made red hot. They were innocent and productive of the star-eyed children peculiar to the South. There were superstitions of ghosts and graveyards to preservation of the younger people from truancy, but there were no superstitions fatal to human life. In New England where they were burning witches, the Southern darkey was burning corncobs to sweat corns and stonebruises away. Nor did they believe down here that if the body of a murderer was burned, the ghosts of his victim would be "laid," and would not rise to annoy and terrify the neighborhood. But the latter is a superstition that apparently still prevails in New England. It is now explained, as the reason for the digging up of a dead man in the Maine town of Damariscotta, and the burning of his body in the house in which his murders were committed, was to assuage the wrath of his victims and keep their ghosts down. Uncle Eph ought to go up that way and peddle conjure bags.

Racial Characteristics—1923.

IOLA KAN REGISTER
NOVEMBER 3, 1923

AN EMPORIA NOBLEMAN.

Kansas Churchman: A month or so ago a lonely old Negro who had spent half a century growing vegetables and peddling them in Emporia, died, and was buried in a grave on the farm where he had lived. His death notice appeared in the newspapers, and except for the people who had been on the aged man's vegetable route, the notice had little interest. Then in the usual routine of work at the probate judge's office, a will bobbed up—the final testament of E. J. Alexander, colored. It was the most unusual will ever filed in Lyon county. For the old vegetable peddler had bequeathed a considerable amount of land and property—all he had—to the needy children of his community.

In the past year or two a secret society has been flourishing in the United States, a society formed on the supposition that all men are not created spiritually in potential equality. They say that the Negro should bow to the will of the white man.

And yet out on a lonely farm near Emporia a broken old colored man, born in slavery, thought out and executed the finest deed this town has seen in years. He gave his all to the little children, white as well as black, that they might suffer less, and that more happiness might come into their lives. He had a love and understanding that thousands of white men never know, and the money for which he worked so hard was given freely that his little friends might have a better chance in life.

The kindly act of E. J. Alexander is a splendid answer to all the propaganda of hatred against the race to which the noble black man belonged. The Negro's heart is as large as his white brother's and this will shows that the Negro is capable of doing as fine deeds as the white man.

No one knows what inspired the old huckster to make such a generous disposition of his property. Perhaps he remembered the crea-

tion of the Heritage fund by the generous and gallant Civil War officer who lived a rich and useful life in Emporia. Perhaps in the long and lonely winter evenings at his home he evolved the plan to help the needy children. It makes no difference, the fact remains that E. J. Alexander in the last year of his life did an act which is a credit to his race and his community.

In a few years the lonely old huckster will be forgotten but his good deed will be remembered long after the poor, foolish sowers of race hatred have seen the futility of their work.

NEGROES PAY DEBTS AFTER WAR REACTION

Jackson, Ga., December 30. (Special.)—Some of the negroes who became involved when the crash came in 1920 have recently paid their accounts in full, including interest, statements made by merchants of Jackson disclose. Leaving the farms a year ago the negroes obtained employment at good wages in the industrial centers and saved enough money to pay their debts. The fact has been pointed to as an encouraging sign of the times.

Books

Anthropology

The Racial History of Mankind. By Roland B. Dixon. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$6.00.

AS the footnotes and bibliography of this book amply demonstrate, it represents an enormous amount of labor. Professor Dixon has examined a host of original monographs, many of them scattered in inaccessible periodicals and published in the Scandinavian and Slavic languages. It is all the more regrettable that he has failed to summarize in anything but the most meager fashion the truly enormous mass of literature examined, for he has thus missed a unique opportunity of playing the part of benefactor to his colleagues. His aim, however, was the very different one of propounding a general scheme of racial classification and development. A similar synthesis has been recently attempted by Professor G. Elliot Smith, but with the sketchiness imperative in an encyclopedia article, while the volume before us has the grandeur that goes with over five hundred pages of reading matter. The outstanding quality of the work, for good and evil, is its audacity. Both in his special conclusions and in his mode of approach the author ignores the traditional judgments of specialists. Thus he runs counter to the belief of most American students in the genetic unity of the New World aborigines and derives the American Indians from a series of immigrations via Bering Strait, each bringing a distinct combination of racial elements. The unity of the American race has indeed been challenged

before by such writers as Professors Von Luschan and Elliot Smith, but unlike his predecessors Professor Dixon dispenses with the hypothesis of Polynesian influence. His arguments on this special but important problem merit careful examination, and whatever conclusion one may draw from the evidence the accompanying maps indicating the distribution of certain traits have the value of provoking thought. 6-13-23

Unfortunately the basic procedure on which the book as a whole rests is in the highest degree questionable. By what he himself characterizes as an arbitrary selection the author singles out three ratios symbolizing, respectively, the cranial length, cranial height, and nasal width, and on this basis constructs his fundamental types. Thus, the Caspian type is characterized by a long, high skull and a narrow nose; the Proto-Negroid by a similar skull but a wide nose; the Alpine by a broad, high skull and a narrow nose; and so forth. Since anthropologists recognize intermediate measurements for each of the selected features, twenty-seven groups would result from all the possible combinations, but in order to simplify matters Professor Dixon assumes that all the human groups characterized by medial instead of extreme values for length of skull, etc., are the result of blending; to which he adds the avowedly "purely arbitrary assumption" that the two extreme constituents shared equally in the result. This is piling hypothesis on hypothesis with a vengeance! Moreover, the terminology employed is extremely misleading. It is true that we are warned again and again that until the final chapter the eight "types" resulting from this procedure are to be regarded not as races but merely as so many trios of measurements. For instance, "Proto-Negroid" should never be understood to denote black skin and kinky hair, always merely a cephalic index below 75, an altitudinal index above 75, a nasal index above 51. But as a matter of fact the term "Negroid" is bound to suggest what it does in common parlance, and this applies to Professor Dixon himself no less than to his readers. If "Proto-Negroid" really means nothing more than the combination indicated, why are we referred to the picture of a surviving Portuguese representative of the type whose hair and swarthiness answer to the current conception of the Negro?

To revert from nomenclature to essentials, Professor Dixon certainly fails to demonstrate in his concluding chapter that his provisional "types" correspond to genetically distinct varieties or races. I am strongly under the impression that he has been led into serious error by the ambiguity of the word "superficial." Because skin pigmentation and hair character are external features, it does not follow for a moment that they are therefore biologically less significant than "the fundamental proportions of the skull," or less stable. When we are asked to believe that the straight-haired Palae-Alpine and the kinky Negrito are fundamentally one race because they resemble each other in the selected cranial characters, the tax upon our credulity is too great to be meekly borne. In his theories of heredity Professor Dixon's boldness is likewise tantamount to recklessness, since most observations on the cephalic index contravene the assumption that the union of extreme types results in a blend.

On the vexed question of the comparative inborn capacities of the races Professor Dixon is admirably moderate in expressing his conviction of far-reaching differences. He does not lavish contempt on the races he considers inferior and does not yield the palm to any one of the three commonly accepted European varieties, but rather to the fusion of Mediterranean, Caspian (= Nordic), and Alpine strains. But however commendable ethically, his position cannot hold water methodologi-

cally. He is combating a man of straw if by the "advocates of the uniformity of man" he means to assail any anthropologists, for I know none who dogmatically believe in an absolute equality. What a number of us have done is to prove that the customary demonstrations of inequality are scientifically worthless, a very different thing. Professor Dixon argues that the Negroes *et al.* are inferior because during all the tens of thousands of years they have not risen superior to their environment. The obvious answer is that the ancestors of the most highly cultured peoples of today were not different in innate capacity two thousand years ago, but represented an entirely different cultural status from their present one. The

problem of comparative racial worth is a difficult but not insoluble one. However, it cannot be solved by guesswork or loose comparisons of mixed groups of obscure constituency. Assuredly the statement that Khengiz Khan was "almost certainly in part of Caspian blood" is unworthy of Professor Dixon. Yet after making every qualification it is impossible not to admire the independence and learning that mark the volume. It disregards the conventional barriers respected by investigators, it certainly aids in establishing some interesting facts of geographical distribution, and it may and should stimulate correspondingly broad essays in synthesis in this age of narrowness and over-specialization.

ROBERT H. LOWIE

Research being Made—1923

Report Of Association For Study Of Negro History Shows Marked Achievement

Baltimore Herald
with respect to the most difficult task of the director, that of raising money, the work of the association has been eminently successful. Encouraged by the appropriation of \$25,000 obtained from the Carnegie Corporation last year, the director appealed to several boards for the same consideration. Last February one of these, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, appropriated \$25,000 to this work, payable in annual installments of \$5,000, as in the case of that obtained from the Carnegie Corporation. During the fiscal year 1921-1922, thirty-seven persons, most of whom were Negroes, contributed \$25,000 each, whereas during the previous fiscal year the number was larger.

The appropriation of \$25,000 obtained from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial requires the employment of investigators to develop the studies of the Free Negro Prior to 1861 and of Negro Reconstruction History. The annual allowance of \$5,000 is devoted altogether to this work, inasmuch as special instructions received from the Trustees of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial prohibit the use of this money for any other purpose. The association has, therefore, employed Dr. George Francis Dow to read the eighteenth century colonial newspapers of New England, C. G. Woodson to make a study of the Free Negro prior to 1861, A. A. Taylor to study the Social and Economic Conditions of the Negro during the Reconstruction, and a clerk serving the investigators in the capacity of a copyist.

At present Mr. A. A. Taylor is spending only one-half of his time at this work, but after the first of next June he will have the opportunity to direct his attention altogether to this task. During this year it is expected that he will complete his studies of the Social and Economic Conditions in Virginia and South Carolina.

In the study of the Free Negro the director has spent the year compiling a statistical report giving the names of free Negroes who were heads of families in the South in 1830 showing the number in each family and the number of slaves owned. Within a few months that part of the report dealing with Louisiana, South Carolina and North Carolina will be completed.

The association is also directing attention to the work of training men for research in this field. The program agreed upon is to educate in the best graduate schools with libraries containing works bearing on Negro life and history at least three young men a year, supported by fellowships of \$500 from the association and such additional stipend as the schools themselves may grant for the support of the undertaking. One of these students will take up the study of Negro History, one will direct his attention to Anthropometric and Psychological measurements of Negroes, and one to African Anthropology and Archaeology. In this undertaking the director has not only the co-operation of Prof. Carl Russell Fish, of the University of Wisconsin and Prof. William E. Dodd, of the University of Chicago, who with him constitute the Committee on Fellowships, but also the assistance of Professors Frank Boas and E. L. Thorndike of Columbia University and of Professor E. A. Hooton of Harvard University.

Closely connected with these plans moreover, are certain other projects to preserve Negro folklore and the fragments of Negro music. In this effort the association has the co-operation of Mrs. Elsie Clews Parsons, the moving spirit of the American Folklore Society. She is now desirous of making a more systematic effort to embody this part of the Negro civilization and she believes that the work can be more successfully done by co-operation with the association. As soon as the director can obtain a special fund for this particular work, an investigator will be employed to undertake it.

The interest manifested in the study of Negro history in clubs and

schools has been very encouraging. Most of the advanced institutions of learning of both North and South make use of The Journal of Negro History in teaching social sciences. The director's two recent works, The History of the Negro Church and The Negro in Our History are being extensively used as textbooks in classes studying Sociology and History. The enthusiasm of some of these groups has developed to the extent that they now request authority to organize under the direction of the association local bodies to be known as State Associations for the Study of Negro Life and History.

Respectfully submitted,

C. G. WOODSON,

Director.

Race History Conference in Baltimore, Md.

Chicago Defender
Two-Day Session Will Be Held

by Leading Scholars; Prize

Is Offered for Folklore

3-10-23

On the 5th and 6th of April there will be held in Baltimore the spring conference of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, directed by Dr. C. G. Woodson. Members of the administrative staff, including Prof. John R. Hawkins, the chairman; W. S. Rutherford, secretary-treasurer, and others of the executive council, are making extensive preparation for this conference. The aim will be to bring together instructors in schools and public spirited citizens with an appreciation of the value of the written record and of research as a factor in correcting error and promoting the truth. The heads of all accredited institutions of learning have been invited to take an active part in this convocation. As it is to be held in Baltimore, near which are located so many of our colleges and universities, it is believed that this conference will prove to be one of the most successful in the history of the association.

The program will cover two days and will offer an opportunity for the discussion of every phase of Race life and history. Among the speakers will be Prof. Kelly Miller, Mr. William Pickens, Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, Dr. James H. Dillard, Bishop R. A. Carter, Mr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, Dr. George Johnson, Dr. Pezavia O'Connell, and Dr. J. O. Spencer. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois and Dr. R. R. Moton have also been invited to address this conference.

An effort will be made to arouse interest and to arrange for conducting throughout the country a campaign

for collecting facts bearing on the Race prior to the Civil war and during the reconstruction period. The field is now being exploited by a staff of investigators of the association. It is earnestly desired that all persons having documentary knowledge of these phases of Race history will not only give the association the advantage of such information, but will attend this conference to devise plans for a more successful prosecution of this particular work.

Another concern of the conference will be to stimulate interest in the collection of folklore for which there is offered a prize of \$200 for the best collection of tales, riddles, proverbs, sayings and songs, which have been heard in Race homes. The aim is to study the Race mind in relation to its environment at various periods in the history of the Race and in different parts of the country. The students of a number of institutions of learning are already at work preparing their collections to compete for this prize and it is hoped that a still larger number will do likewise. This special work is under the supervision of a committee composed of Dr. Elsie Clews Parsons, assistant editor of the Journal of American Folklore; Dr. Franz Boas, professor of anthropology in Columbus university and a member of the executive council of the association, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson, editor of the Journal of Negro History.

Historians of Race Will Hold Convocation In Baltimore

Norfolk Journal and Guide
Special to Journal and Guide

Washington, D. C.—Dr. C. G. Woodson, director; Dr. John R. Hawkins, the chairman; Mr. S. W. Rutherford, secretary-treasurer and others of the executive council of the Association for the study of Negro Life and History are making extensive preparations for the spring conference of the association which will be held in Baltimore on April 5 and 6.

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THE PROGRAM

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Asso. Study of Negro Life Closes Meeting

Norfolk Journal and Guide
Nashville, Tenn., March 31 (Associated Negro Press)—The National Association for the Study of Negro Life closed a most interesting meeting here last Friday night. Dr. Carter Woodson was the big figure of the meeting. He was very cordially received by Nashville's leading citizens and he delivered several informative addresses on the several phases of present-day Negro life in America and throughout the world.

throughout the country a campaign for collecting facts bearing on the Negro prior to the Civil War and during the Reconstruction Period.

COLLECT NEGRO FOLKLORE

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Special attention will be given to the problem of preparing for serious scientific work in the study of Negro life and history a number of young men by the grant of fellowships in the accredited graduate schools of the country. The Association has established three such fellowships of \$500 a year.

Universities And Progress

PROF. WALTER DILL SCOTT,
president of Northwestern

University, says the earning power of American workers has been increased enormously by the scientific labors of American universities. The annual increase, he says, equals "the total paid by taxpayers and philanthropists for all our universities, from the founding of Harvard College to the present moment."

We have no reason to doubt that computation. It is a splendid tribute to the value of scientific research in our higher educational institutions. 2/26-23

But it leads Professor Scott to venture a prophecy that in the present century the universities will make as great a contribution by their research in the social sciences "as they did by the discovery of truth in the natural sciences during the nineteenth century."

"Men are not now working together happily and effectively," he declares. "There is said to be a lack of control in the home, restlessness in the school, apathy in the church, shirking in the shops, dishonesty in the counting houses, grafting in politics, crime in the cities and bolshevism threatening all our institutions."

It is to cure these evils that Professor Scott believes future university research will contribute so largely. One method of accomplishing this task, he says, is the maintenance of "a graduate school and a group of professional schools, all in intimate contact with city life."

We fear that Professor Scott is unduly hopeful. The discovery of "truths of the social sciences" which will make men "work to-

gether happily and effectively" is a far different problem from the promulgation of the theory of electro-magnetic waves, the discovery of radium or the invention of the electric furnace, all of which he cites as triumphs of university research.

The soul of man can not be put under a microscope. His appetites and senses can not be dissected in a laboratory. His emotions, his aspirations, his relations with his fellow men can not be analyzed like the records of a weather bureau or the reactions of organic chemistry.

Progress in the study of the natural sciences has made possible the revolutionary progress from the stage coach to the flying machine. This development in transportation has moved forward in definite steps from fact to fact.

Man does not change in that way. Man remains fundamentally and essentially the same. And the research in the social sciences by all the universities in the world can not alter that controlling law.

NEGROES OF SOUTH CAROLINA
WILL RECEIVE PENSIONS

(By The Associated Negro Press)
Columbia, S. C., July 3.—Four hundred and twenty-eight "faithful" Negroes are to receive pensions from the state of South Carolina, according to the announcement of H. B. Jackson, clerk of the pension department. Checks to provide for the paying of these Negro pensions has now been mailed out which average only \$7.00 each.

RESEARCH WORK IN ALABAMA PRAISED

National Council Meeting in Cincinnati Has Good Word to Say for Activities Here

Research work as carried on in Alabama both in an official way and that conducted by the Alabama Anthropological Society and the several State Historical Societies but who report directly to the state official historical department, was very favorably commented on at the meeting of the National Research Council in Cincinnati on Monday of this week. Peter A. Brannon, Curator of the Department of Archives and History and President of the Alabama Anthropol-

logical Society, and a member of the committee on state surveys of the National Research Council, attended the executive meeting at the University of Cincinnati on Monday. 1-3-24

The session of the committee lasted the entire day and as the work of the council is going to be devoted to the Mississippi Valley for the coming year, reports were made to the council by representatives from Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Iowa. The work in Alabama is well and favorably known and Dr. Clark Wissler of the American Museum of Natural History made the statement on the floor that it was so well in hand that no suggestion could be advanced.

The Alabama Anthropological Society began some years ago to make an extensive survey of the state along exactly the same lines that the National Council working in connection with the Smithsonian Institution, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Anthropological Society and other national organizations were doing for the United States at large. The work has been very successful in this state and in fact has been so successful that a place on the executive committee of the council was given to Alabama on that account.

Mr. Brannon has been requested to assist in the organization of the same character of surveys in Georgia, Florida and the adjoining Southern states.

UNIVERSITY WILL REWARD LEADERS IN STUDY OF MAN

CHICAGO, April 16.—An endowment of \$100,000, the income of which is to accrue to the benefit of that professor who, in the estimate of the university, has made the greatest contribution to learning in the humanities was announced by President Walter Dill Scott of Northwestern university at a recent dinner of university trustees and faculty members. "Progress in the nineteenth century was largely dependent upon the study of nature," said President Scott. "Progress in the twentieth century will probably depend largely upon the study of man."

"It is important to support chemistry, physics, astronomy, geology, botany and zoology. It is imperative to encourage the discovery of truth in psychology, philosophy, education, economics, sociology, history, literature and religion."

"Advance in civilization is not due so much to happy accident as it is to research and to constructive imagination. It takes less imagination to see the value of chemistry and physics than it does to see the value of literature and psychology. The results of the teaching of the humanities are indirect and intangible."

Each of the 600 members of this year's graduating class has pledged himself to give to the support of the university a definite sum each year as long as he lives, President Scott announced.

Research being Made—1923.

THE READER'S GUIDE

Books on the Negro Covering Many Phases of the Subject — On Reading Swift — The Modernists in Art

By May Lamberton Becker

The Reader's Guide has long been a popular feature of the Saturday edition of the *Evening Post* and, since its beginning, of *The Literary Review*. More inquiries are being addressed to Mrs. Becker than the space limits of *The Literary Review* will permit her to answer on Saturdays, and hereafter inquiries from readers in New York City will be answered in a column to appear regularly on Wednesdays. This department will assist in the choosing of books for reading lists, club papers, the needs of individuals, etc. While it does not exclude those of earlier publication, it will devote particular attention to books of recent publication.

S. R. L. New York, whose research his department has assisted in the past, comes again to say that he is undertaking a study of the development of the negro along social, economic, educational, literary, and political lines, and of their contribution to civilization in general and to American democracy in particular. Also he wishes surveys of existing racial conditions between negroes and their white neighbors. He thanks me in advance for the "vast trouble" he is causing me; 99 per cent of the gratitude I will apply to the account of some other list, for though this subject is surely vast I can assemble a list of books for its study with the minimum of effort.

This is because in one book indispensable to the student and highly desirable for the education of any American, Benjamin Brawley's *Social History of the American Negro* (Macmillan), there is one of the most comprehensive and satisfactory bibliographies. But because this has naturally a great number of titles select a few as adapted to give the outlines and add some of the books that have appeared since it was printed in 1921.

Mr. Brawley's "Social History" first and his survey of "The Negro in Literature and Art" (Duffield). For the reader in a hurry, his "Short History of the American Negro" (Macmillan). Then "The Negro" by W. E. B. DuBois (Home University Library, Holt), and by all means his noble work "Darkwater: Voices

From Within the Veil" (Harcourt Brace). His "Souls of Black People" (McClurg), is in its thirteenth edition; it has pages unforgettable for their sombre beauty. Of another type of interest are the writings of Booker Washington: "Up From Slavery" and "My Larger Education" (Doubleday Page). Most of the others are out of print, but there is a new book about him in which they are quoted, W. C. Jackson's "Boy's Life of Booker T. Washington" (Macmillan). "The Negro in Chicago" is the report of a recent survey conducted by the University of Chicago, an important document. "The Voice of the Negro" is edited by Robert Kerlin, a white Southerner (Dutton, 1921). "The Soul of John Brown," by Stephen Graham (Macmillan), is an English contribution. "The Negro Faces America," by Herbert Jacob Seligmann (Harper, 1920), is a spirited plea for justice intended to awaken the public conscience to the immediacy of the problem.

"Black and White in the Southern States," by Maurice Evans (Longmans, 1915), is a study of the race problem of the United States from a South African point of view. Our race question is also considered in Moorfield Storey's "Problem of Today" (Houghton Mifflin). "The Negro in Our History," by C. G. Woodson (Associated Publishers), and "The Negro Press in the United States," by F. G. Detweiler (University of Chicago), two important recent works, were reviewed by Oswald Garrison Villard in *The Literary Review* of June 30.

Mr. Brawley's book on the negro contribution to the arts is well documented. To the general reader there is one negro poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar, whose "Complete Poems" are published by Dodd, Mead, but the discerning will see in "Harlem Shadows," by Claude McKay (Harcourt, Brace) poems not only of promise, but of present significance. "American Negro Poetry," edited by James Weldon Johnson, a recent publication of Harcourt Brace, gives a good idea of the number of men and women of color who are writing poems of some degree of merit, often of a high degree. For that matter, many of us accept the judgment of William Stanley Braithwaite as to degrees of merit in magazine poetry.

"Negro Folk Rhymes," collected by Thomas W. Talley of Fisk University (Macmillan, 1922), includes a great number of singing and dancing tunes, of jingles, children's rhymes, and wise sayings, with a small "foreign section" and a scholarly essay on their use, origin, and evolution. *The Crisis*, 79 Fifth Avenue, will keep a student in

touch with recent publications. Other periodicals of value are the *Journal of Negro History* and the *Negro Year Book*.

Of the recent novels, I believe the most important for its evidential quality is Clement Wood's "Nigger" (Dutton). T. S. Stribling's "Birthright" (Century) does not properly take into account the existence of an "aristocracy of thought" among American negroes, whose numbers, already large, are growing so rapidly that in scarcely any large city need the hero find himself so thrown back upon himself, so unclassed.

H. A. Shand's "White and Black" (Harcourt, Brace) sets out to tell the truth about Texas, and to hear it as told takes a strong stomach; the sincerity of the work is a substitute for literary style—once in a while it produces it.

Dorothy Scarborough's "In the Land of Cotton" (Macmillan), another novel to interpret Texas and its problems to the world—but a far less lurid one—of course involves race questions.

White playwrights have been slow to utilize in our drama the intrinsic qualities of the negro race, the deep tragic note sounded by Ridgely Torrance in "Granny Maumee" or the true poetic color of his "Rider of Dreams" (Macmillan), but they are beginning to come in short plays like "The Black Tie," by George Middleton (Holt), or the reserved yet poignant "White Dresses," by Paul Greene, given in the collection of "Contemporary One-Act Plays," published by Scribner.

Paul Greene, by the way, is one of the men to be watched by the student of American drama. He is the most promising of the group gathered by the University of North Carolina as the "Carolina Playmakers," and I am coming to believe that his play "The Last of the Lowries" in "Caro-

lina Plays" (Holt) is the best one-act play, or at least one of the very best, that we have produced. I say this with a full knowledge of its family likeness to a famous Synge play.

This is indirectly concerned with race problems, for the "Lowries" are Croats, outlaws of mixed blood. There is a genuine tragic theme even in the horrible "Goat Alley" of Ernest Culbertson (Stewart Kidd) and not mere social propaganda. It is not to be wondered at that Carl Sandburg and William Ellery Leonard lose their grip on their artistic medium when they write poetry about race riots—like Mr. Leonard's "Lynching Bee" (Huebsch), for instance. They would scarcely be poets could they write about them in real poetry.